

Hugh Lawson White to Andrew Jackson, April 7, 1827, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

HUGH L. WHITE TO JACKSON.

Knoxville, April 7, 1827.

Dear Sir , From your old friend M——^{e1} I received a very lengthy reply to my answer to his first letter, of which I did not think it worth while to advise you, as it contains nothing of consequence which was not to be substantially found in the first. I immediately gave to it such answer as it seemed to merit and there the matter rests. His and mine are both in kind terms. The real object I always suspected was to get some excuse for coming before the public, and my wish always is to furnish no reasonable pretext for a controversy, to the end that if forced to contend before the tribunal of the Sovereign people I may in truth as well as appearance be in the right.

¹ Monroe.

That every means have been, and will be, employed, to destroy you and all those who advocate your pretensions no reasonable man need doubt. That *money* and *offices* can do much there is too much reason to fear; and every thing which the judicious use of them can do, will be tried, with untiring zeal, in the whole course of this spring and Summer I most firmly believe. It is a fearful and unequal contest— *money*, *office* , the hope of office and every thing which can be included under the term patronage on the one side, confronted by nothing but intelligence and virtue of the people on the other: but he is unworthy of public employ who will *faulter* for a moment. *Discretion*, *firmness* perserverance and union will carry us successfully through or leave us all honorably

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at home to attend to our own concerns, under nominally a Republican government: but practically a monarchy of the worst stamp. That any falsehood they chuse to invent can be proved either upon you or any of your friends I am well aware; and every man may prepare his mind for the worst. It is a poor battle in which none are killed or wounded—if defeated we can bury our dead and dress our wounded at leisure. If victorious we have the highest consolation, to wit, that the slain and mangled have suffered in the best of causes.